

become abandoned by operation of law within one year of the filing date of the provisional application. The provisional application itself cannot mature into a patent. However, if applicants wish to obtain a patent on the invention disclosed in a provisional application, applicants must file a nonprovisional application not later than 12 months from the filing date of the provisional application.

The Office also issues Statutory Invention Registrations, which have the defensive but not the enforceable attributes of a patent. It also processes international applications for patents under the provisions of the Patent Cooperation Treaty as an International Searching Authority under Chapter I of the Treaty and as an International Preliminary Examining Authority under Chapter II of the Treaty.

Over 114,500 patents providing inventors with exclusive rights were issued for the fiscal year of 1995. Effective January 1, 1996, patentees have the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention throughout the U.S. or importing the invention into the U.S. during the term of their patent. Patents and trademarks may be reviewed and searched in the PTO and in over 78 patent and trademark depository libraries throughout the country. The patent system fosters innovation, investment in developing and marketing inventions, and prompt disclosure of technological information.

About 67,000 trademarks were registered for fiscal year 1995, and 6,785 trademark registrations were renewed. A trademark includes any distinctive word,

name, symbol, device, or any combination thereof adopted and used, or intended to be used, by a manufacturer or merchant to identify his goods or services and distinguish them from those manufactured or sold by others. Trademarks, registered for 10 years, with renewal rights of equal term, are examined by the Office for compliance with various statutory requirements to prevent unfair competition and consumer deception.

In addition to the examination of patent and trademark applications, issuance of patents, and registration of trademarks, the Patent and Trademark Office:

- sells printed copies of issued patents and trademark registrations;
- records and indexes documents transferring ownership;
- maintains a scientific library and search files containing over 30 million documents, including U.S. and foreign patents and U.S. trademarks;
- provides search rooms for the public to research their applications;
- hears and decides appeals from prospective inventors and trademark applicants;
- participates in legal proceedings involving the issue of patents or registration of trademarks;
- advocates strengthening intellectual property protection worldwide;
- compiles the *Official Gazettes*, a weekly notice of patents issued and trademarks registered by the Office, including other information; and
- maintains a roster of patent agents and attorneys qualified and recognized to practice before the Office.

For further information, contact the Office of Public Affairs, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. Phone, 703-305-8341. The Office's operations are located at 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202.

Technology Administration

The Technology Administration was established by Congress in 1988 (15 U.S.C. 3704) and consists of the Office

of Technology Policy (OTP), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the National

Technical Information Service (NTIS). The Technology Administration is headed by the Under Secretary for Technology who serves as a principal adviser to the Secretary of Commerce and as the Department's spokesperson for science and technology issues.

The Administration serves as the premier technology agency working with U.S. industry in addressing competitiveness and in exercising leadership both within the Department of Commerce and governmentwide. It discharges this role through OTP by advocating coherent policies for maximizing the impact of technology on economic growth, through NIST by carrying out technology programs with U.S. industry, and through NTIS by disseminating technology information.

For further information, call 202-482-1575.

Office of Technology Policy

The primary role of the Office of Technology Policy is to offer assistance to private sector and government communities in advocating and pursuing policies that maximize the impact of technology on economic growth, and by exercising leadership to define the role of government in supporting U.S. industrial competitiveness in the post-cold war environment. The Office serves as a liaison to the private sector, identifying barriers to the rapid commercialization of technology, eliciting support for Administration civilian technology policies, and ensuring that industry's interests are reflected in standards and technology agreements and civilian technology policy. It also assists Federal, State, and local officials, industry, and academic institutions in promoting the technological growth and competitiveness of the U.S. economy.

For further information, call 202-482-5687.

National Institute of Standards and Technology

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) assists industry in developing technology to improve product quality, modernize

manufacturing processes, ensure product reliability, and facilitate rapid commercialization of products based on new scientific discoveries.

The Institute's primary mission is to promote U.S. economic growth by working with industry to develop and apply technology, measurements, and standards. It carries out this mission through four major programs:

- an Advanced Technology Program (ATP) that provides cost-shared awards to industry to develop high-risk enabling technologies with significant economic potential;

- a Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), a network of extension centers and experts providing technical and business assistance to small manufacturers in adopting new technologies;

- a strong laboratory effort planned and implemented in cooperation with industry that focuses on infrastructural technologies such as measurements, standards, evaluated data, and test methods. Research is mainly performed in the areas of: electronics and electrical engineering, manufacturing engineering, chemical science and technology, physics, materials science and engineering, building and fire research, computer systems, and computing and applied mathematics; and

- a quality improvement program that is associated with the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The award recognizes quality achievements in the areas of manufacturing, service, and small business.

For further information, call 301-975-3058. Fax, 301-926-1630. E-mail, inquiries@nist.gov. Internet, <http://www.nist.gov/>.

National Technical Information Service

The National Technical Information Service (NTIS) is the Nation's largest central clearinghouse and governmentwide resource for scientific, technical, engineering, and other business-related information. It acquires information from U.S. Government agencies and their contractors, as well as from foreign, primarily governmental,

sources. The Service is a self-supporting Federal agency within the Technology Administration of the Department of Commerce.

The Service's collection of information, exceeding 2.5 million works, covers current events, business and management studies, research and development, manufacturing, standards, translations of foreign works, foreign and domestic trade, general statistics, and more. Since the implementation of the American Technology Preeminence Act (ATPA), NTIS is able to offer an even more diverse and practical range of information. The Act requires all Federal agencies to transfer, in a timely manner, unclassified scientific, technical, and engineering information resulting from federally funded research and development activities to NTIS. The Service's multimedia products range from paper copy technical reports and periodicals to CD-ROM's, audiovisual products, computer software and electronic databases, and online services.

FedWorld® The Service's electronic marketplace provides public access to thousands of Government documents; connects to several hundred Federal on-line systems; and offers instant electronic delivery of selected products from NTIS. FedWorld® provides both dial-up and Internet access to information from numerous Government agencies and programs, at no charge to the public.

The *NTIS Preview Database* on FedWorld® contains titles entered into the NTIS collection within the last 30 days (approximately 7,000 new products each month). The database is a 30-day rolling window of citations updated semimonthly. Half of the citations are removed midmonth, and newer citations are added.

To connect to FedWorld®, set modem parity to none, data bits to 8, and stop bit to 1. Set terminal emulation to ANSI. Set duplex to full. Then set your communications software to dial FedWorld® at 703-321-FEDW. To connect to FedWorld® on the Internet, either telnet to fedworld.gov, or ftp to ftp.fedworld.gov, or point your Web browser to <http://www.fedworld.gov/>. For

more information or technical assistance, please call the FedWorld® help desk at 703-487-4223.

NTIS Database The *NTIS Bibliographic Database* is available on CD-ROM or online through commercial vendors listed in the free *NTIS Products and Services Catalog* (PR-827NEB). The database is also available to research and development organizations and agencies on direct lease. For more information, call 703-487-4929.

Subject Area Selections The Service has a large collection of information on the environment—including handbooks and guides, regulations and updates, economic studies, and applied technology. It is the exclusive distributor of Superfund documents. For the free catalog *Environment Highlights*, ask for PR-868NEB.

The Service distributes health care materials such as the National Library of Medicine's *Grateful Med* and *MeSH* search tools, as well as an extensive range of other technical reports in the health field. Request your free catalog on health-related products, *Health Care Highlights* (PR-745NEB).

Business Highlights catalog (PR-985NEB) provides product listings for data necessary for decisionmaking in today's business market. As part of its expansion in the business subject area, NTIS is rapidly increasing its collection of overseas business information.

NTIS Alerts are published twice each month and contain summaries of the latest Government-sponsored projects and their findings. They are available in more than 30 broad subject areas. The Service also prints customized *Alerts* from over 150 available subtopics to suit recipients' needs. For a free catalog, call 703-487-4650 and request PR-797NEB.

Published Searches are exclusively prepared bibliographies containing 50–250 of the latest abstracts of research reports and studies available from a preselected individual database. With each order, a completely new and updated bibliography is produced. For more information on *Published Searches*, call 703-487-4650 and request PR-186NEB.

Government Reports Announcements & Index Journal announces approximately 80,000 research and development and engineering results annually. Its comprehensive coverage provides thousands of entries within each issue making it a valuable, multidisciplinary current awareness resource. This item is available by subscription and is published twice a month. Call 703-487-4630 to receive answers to your inquiries on this product.

Technology Transfer The Service provides technology transfer services such as patent licensing and publishes the *Directory of Federal Laboratory and Technology Resources*. This valuable directory guides you to hundreds of Federal agencies, laboratories, and engineering centers willing to share their expertise to aid in your research. Request flyer PR-746NEB for more details on this product.

It also produces the *Federal Research in Progress (FEDRIP) Database* that summarizes more than 150,000 ongoing U.S. Government research and development and engineering project summaries. The database is available for lease by calling 703-487-4929; it is also available online through commercial vendors. For a free search guide, call the NTIS Sales Desk at 703-487-4650 and request PR-847NEB.

Global Competitive Intelligence As part of its expansion in the business subject area, NTIS is rapidly increasing its collection of information from international sources. The new *Foreign Technology Update*, a twice-monthly publication, tracks scientific and technical developments from around the world. To receive information on this subscription product, please call 703-487-4630. A publication such as the *International Trade Administration Bibliography* (PB93-218360NEB), with more than 1,000 competitive intelligence-related reports and studies, is also available. Call the NTIS Sales Desk at 703-487-4650 for price quotes and more information.

Through an agreement with the Japan Center of Science and Technology, NTIS makes available the Japanese Online

Information System (JOIS). To receive information on searching JOIS, call 703-487-4819. To help you keep up with technical information from Japan, NTIS, in conjunction with the Department's Japan Technology Program, has updated popular Japanese directories, request PR-825NEB for more information.

Continuous Acquisition and Life-Cycle Support Information Center With the support of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, NTIS operates the Continuous Acquisition and Life-Cycle Support (CALS) Information Center to promote the widespread understanding, acceptance, and use of CALS principles through an effective flow of CALS-related technical information. The Center provides a public source of CALS, Electronic Commerce, Electronic Data Interchange, and related information including standards and specifications, technical reports, training materials, computer datafiles, and the CALS Electronic Bulletin Board system (available on FedWorld®). To receive the free brochure *CALS Information Services from NTIS*, request PR-898NEB.

Federal Computer Products Center The Service provides computer software and datafiles on tape, diskette, and CD-ROM, as well as video tapes. Call the NTIS Sales Desk at 703-487-4650; or fax your requests to 703-321-8547 to receive free product information on the *Directory of U.S. Government Software for Mainframes and Microcomputers* (PR-261NEB) and the *Directory of U.S. Government Datafiles* (PR-629NEB).

National Audiovisual Center The National Audiovisual Center (NAC) consolidates most of the U.S.

Government's activity in the duplication and distribution of audio, visual, and multimedia products. The collection contains more than 9,000 Government-produced audiovisual products in a wide range of formats. The range of subject areas includes foreign language training, occupational safety and health, law enforcement training, fire service training, history, science, medical training, business and economics, agriculture, and natural resources. For the free *Media Resource Catalog* that

lists NAC's most popular titles, call the NTIS Sales Desk at 703-487-4650 and ask for PR-1001NEB.

Joint Ventures The Service works with private industry to build strategic alliances. These include the use of contracts or cooperative agreements with the private sector, individuals, or other organizations. The objective is to create new information products for U.S. Government-produced data and

software. The Service seeks partnerships to open new channels of sales and distribution. Call 703-487-4785 for more information about joint ventures. **Free NTIS Catalogs** To obtain copies of the catalogs or brochures listed above, or to receive a free copy of the *NTIS Catalog of Products and Services* (PR-827NEB), call the NTIS Sales Desk at 703-487-4650, or send your request by fax to 703-321-8547.

Sources of Information

Age and Citizenship Age search and citizenship information is available from the Personal Census Search Unit, Bureau of the Census, Data Preparation Division, P.O. Box 1545, Jeffersonville, IN 47131. Phone, 812-285-5314.

Consumer Affairs Information is available to businesses and consumers regarding good business practices and resolving consumer complaints. Tip sheets, in English and Spanish, on how to resolve complaints and consumer bulletins, describing programs in the Department of Commerce, are available through the Office's fax-on-demand system. Information on materials is available on the Internet at <http://www.doc.gov/>. Phone, 202-482-5001. Fax-on-demand, 202-501-1191. Fax, 202-482-6007. E-mail, caffairs@doc.gov. For further information, contact the Office of Consumer Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce, Rm. H5718, Washington, DC 20230.

Economic Conversion Information The Office of Economic Conversion Information (OECI) is a clearinghouse for communities, businesses, and workers seeking to obtain information regarding defense adjustment and economic development. The Office's database contains descriptions and contact numbers of Federal, State, and local programs; guides and models for

economic development; and many other related items.

For further information, contact the Office of Economic Conversion Information, Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230. Phone, 1-800-345-1222. Internet, <http://ecix.doc.gov/>. Electronic bulletin board (by modem), 800-352-2949.

Environment The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration monitors the conditions in the ocean, atmosphere, and Earth-Sun environment; prepares and issues weather warnings and forecasts; provides Federal leadership in managing the living resources of the sea and the Nation's coastal zone; ensures that marine mammals and endangered marine species are protected under the law; and provides worldwide environmental data and information products and services in the atmospheric, marine, solid earth, and solar terrestrial sciences. It also conducts research aimed at remote sensing of the physical environment and provides a variety of environmental quality control services, including those for urban airborne pollution control, estuarine water movement, and water resources management. Write to the Office of Public and Constituent Affairs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Washington, DC 20230. Phone, 202-482-6090. Program information is also available on the Internet, at <http://www.noaa.gov/>.